

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Applicants initially note the present response is submitted to place the above-identified application in condition for allowance based on the indication of allowable subject matter in the outstanding Office Action. More particularly, claims 4-6, 8-14, 23-25, 27-33, and 35-38 are pending in this application. Claims 1-3, 7, 15-22, 26, and 34 are canceled by the present response without prejudice. Those claims 1-3, 7, 15-22, 26, and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. patent 6,075,491 to Dakuia et al. As the above-noted claims are canceled by the present response the rejection thereto is obviated by the present response.

Further, in the Office Action claims 4-6, 8-14, 23-25, 27-33, and 35-38 were objected to as dependent upon rejected base claims, but were noted as allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims.

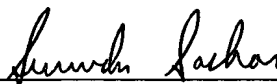
In view of the above-noted indication of allowable subject matter, by the present response each of claims 4, 9, 10, 23, 28, 29, and 35 are amended to be rewritten in independent form, to include the subject matter of their base claims and any intervening claims. Further, the other claims currently pending in this application depend from one of the now rewritten independent claims noted as allowable in the outstanding Office Action.

In such ways, each of currently pending claims 4-6, 8-14, 23-25, 27-33, and 35-38 are believed to be allowable based on the indication of allowable subject matter in the outstanding Office Action.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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